



WEEKLY REPORT

ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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For the week ending Friday, February 27, 2004

Welcome to the ASRS Weekly Report. This report summarizes retirement-related legislation, and provides a briefing of news and notices important to member employers and your employees. Weekly Report is sent via email each Friday. Please direct comments related to this newsletter to Michelle Fink at michellef@asrs.state.az.us or phone (602) 308-5107.

***** Please distribute or make this report available to your employees. *****

ASRS News

- The Arizona State Retirement System will begin to **charge interest on all Payroll Deduction Agreements** beginning April 1, 2004.

Payroll Deduction Agreements are contracts that may be set up between a member and their employer for the purpose of making payments toward Service Purchase of previous years worked at another qualified employer plan that can add to a member's pension benefit upon retirement.

Previously, the ASRS allowed payroll deduction payments over a period of time to be made without interest. The ASRS Board of Trustees authorized interest to be charged on all new Payroll Deduction Agreements entered into from April 1, 2004 forward. The interest rate is set at eight percent, the ASRS earnings rate.

The Board authorized the interest charge in an effort to ensure non-PDA participants do not absorb the cost of the PDA program, and to minimize future contribution rate increases affecting all ASRS members and employers.

To learn more about Service Purchase and Payroll Deduction Agreements, please see the Service Purchase Fact Sheet on our website, or call our Member Services Division at (602) 240-2000 in metro Phoenix, (520) 239-3100 in metro Tucson, or toll-free at (800) 621-3778.

- The ASRS Employer Relations Division is hosting a special **ER 101 workshop** designed to train new staff members about their responsibilities related to the retirement system. The four-hour workshop is scheduled for March 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the ASRS Tucson office, 7660 E. Broadway Blvd., and April 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave.

If your organization has new staff members in human resources, finance or other departments that deal with the ASRS, or if you'd like to learn more about the retirement system so you can better serve your employees, this workshop is for you! To reserve your spot, please call Chanda Washington or Rita Anne Johnson for reservations at (602) 240-2093 or (602) 240-2147 from metro Phoenix, (520) 239-3100 ext. 2093 from metro Tucson, or toll-free statewide (800) 621-3778 ext. 2093.

Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings

- **ASRS Investment Review Committee** - Tuesday, March 2 – CANCELED.
- **ASRS External Affairs Review Committee** - Friday, March 5, 10 a.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14th floor.
- **ASRS Board Meeting** - Friday, March 19, 9:30 a.m., ASRS Tucson office, 7660 E. Broadway Blvd.
- **ASRS Operations Review Committee** – Thursday, March 25, 10:30 a.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14th floor.

Note: All Board & Committee meetings are open to the public and your attendance is encouraged. Schedules, agendas and minutes of meetings are posted on our website and are available at our Phoenix and Tucson offices.

Group Meetings & Seminars

Our Member Services Division will be travelling state-wide in the coming weeks to host a series of **Group Meetings & Seminars** designed for members thinking about retirement within the next year to five years. Group Meetings are for those within one year of retirement, seminars are for those within three to five years from retirement. Please be sure to let your employees know that if they're contemplating retirement, these meetings are available! A complete list is posted on the Calendar section of our website.

For reservations, please call (800) 621-3778

Group Meetings

Yuma, March 1, 4 p.m.
Yuma, March 2, 2 p.m.
Yuma, March 3, 9 a.m.
Yuma, March 4, 1 p.m.

Douglas, March 4, 8 a.m.

Willcox, March 5, 9 a.m.

Florence, March 8, 3 p.m.

Casa Grande, March 9, 3 p.m.

Flagstaff, March 29, 4 p.m.
Flagstaff, March 30, 9 a.m. & 3 p.m.

Seminars

Yuma, March 2, 9 a.m.
Yuma, March 3, 1 p.m.

Bisbee, March 4, 1 p.m.

Casa Grande, March 9, 9 a.m.

Flagstaff, March 31, 9 a.m.

Quick Reference
ASRS Related Retirement Legislation
(For Period Ending Friday, February 27, 2004)

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
HB 2008: Arizona Rangers Pension Sponsor: Huppenthal As Introduced: Continuous residence within the state is deleted from the qualifications for pensions for members of the Arizona Rangers SHORT TITLE CHANGE S/E: Current Status: HB 2008 passed the Committee on Government & Retirement with a strike-everything amendment which is titled Retired members; dependents; health insurance; premium payment; separate account; definitions, that impacts the premium benefit program by clarifying that two ASRS retirees who are married are eligible to receive the greater of two single or one family premium benefit.	Assigned: 2/17 – gov-ret & rules DPA/SE <u>House gov-ret with amend #3227</u> (11-0-0-1-0) Status: Second Read 2/16/04 COW DPA 2/26/04	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: None expected.
HB 2018 - ASRS; Late Employer Contributions; Payment Sponsor: Huppenthal As Introduced: Clarifies that ASRS participating employers who did not pay the amount of the employer contributions and all interest for periods prior to July 17, 1994, are liable for the total unpaid amount and accrued interest on the unpaid amount.	Assigned: <i>Hse GR and Hse Rules</i> Status: Awaiting Hse GR and Rules Status: Second Read 1/19/04	As Introduced: None expected.	As Introduced: None expected.

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
<p>HB 2029 - ASRS; Service Purchase; Cost Sponsor: Huppenthal Same As SB 1378 As Introduced: A five-year work requirement is added to three areas of law governing purchase of ASRS service credits: 1) credits for service for years in the military, 2) credit for service in the employment of other governmental entities, 3) credit lost due to an official one-year leave of absence. The formula used to calculate the cost to purchase the service credit is changed to a single standard based on the present value of the additional benefit. Payment for credited service may be via a rollover contribution of the member's accrued vacation, sick leave or overtime pay as long as certain conditions are met. Effective Jan 1, 2004.</p>	<p>Assigned: Hse GR and Hse Rules Passed Hse. GR - DP 1/20/04 (10-1-0-1-0) Hse Rules 1/28/04 (11-0-0-1-0) C & P Passed Hse 57-0 Status: Senate first read 2/4/04</p>	<p>As Introduced: \$330,000 one-time implementation cost that includes programming and other set up costs. No impact on the contribution rate</p>	<p>As introduced: The bill will result in a reduction in contribution rates of 0.17% for all participating employers and 0.17% for all employees. Employees and employers will each see a total annual contribution savings of \$12.4 million. As one of the employers, the state general fund will save \$3.2 million in contributions annually.</p>
<p>HB 2049 - ASRS; Membership; Political Subdivision Entities Sponsors: Huppenthal, Hubbs, Nelson, et al. As Introduced: Stipulates that political subdivision entities are eligible to participate in the ASRS and provides a definition of political subdivision entities. The list of ASRS-member employers is expanded to include "participating political subdivision entities," defined as entities created by political subdivisions (including instrumentalities of subdivisions), a majority of whose members is composed of political subdivisions and whose primary purpose is the performance of government related service. Provisions for retroactive effective date and for purchase of service credits by those who worked for a political subdivision entity before the effective date of this act. Emergency clause. Government & Retirement Committee Amendment: Allows an active member of a participating political entity to purchase service under the statute that was in effect before January 1, 2004 as long as he or she applies for the service purchase before December 31, 2004.</p>	<p>Status: Passed Hse. GR DPA (10-0-0-2-0) Passed Hse. Rules C & P (10-0-0-2-0). Passed Hse 56-1 Status: Senate First Read 1/26/04.</p>	<p>As Introduced: None expected.</p>	<p>As Introduced: None. The Hse GR Amendment may result in the ASRS Fund being under compensated for the service purchased by employees of political subdivision entities that join ASRS. Unable to estimate actuarial cost until additional information is received.</p>

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
HB 2052 – ASRS; Retirement Incentive Costs Sponsor: Huppenthal Same as SB 1377 As Introduced: Requires the employer to pay the difference between the actuarial present value of the increased benefit and the contributions received if the employer offers the employee retirement incentives that result in increases in pension benefits for which the fund does not receive full compensation.	Assigned: Hse GR, Hse Rules Passed Hse GR, DP 1/27/04 (11-0-0-1-0) 2/4 House Consent 2/4 House Rules (10-0-0-2-0) C & P 2/10 passed Hse 59-0; Status: Senate first read 2/11/04	As Introduced: \$266,345 one-time implementation cost that includes programming and other set up costs. No impact on contribution rate.	As introduced: The bill will result in contribution rate savings of 0.11% for all participating employers and 0.11% for all employees. Employers and employees will each see a total annual contribution savings of \$7,575,000. As one of the employers, the state general fund will save \$1.9 million in contributions annually. A study of retirement incentive programs implemented by ASRS employers in recent years has revealed those programs have had a total cost to the fund of \$45.4million.
HB 2077- ASRS; Long Term Disability Sponsor: Huppenthal Same as SB 1379 As Introduced: 1. Requires existing employees of new employers to meet the same 12-month pre-existing condition limitations as new employees of existing employers. 2. Suspends the disability payment if the member refuses to participate in a recommended work rehabilitation program for which the member is reasonably qualified by education, training or experience. 3. Disallows the payment of disability benefits the first of the month in which the member is convicted of a criminal offense and confined to a correctional institution for more than 30 continuous days. 4. Clarifies that the benefits for both the primary and dependent Social Security beneficiaries are subtracted from the LTD benefits. 5. Requires members to pursue obtaining Social Security disability benefits through all available levels or until the claims administrator determines that the member would not be eligible for Social Security disability benefits. 6. Prevents members from bypassing the 24-month limitation on being disabled from <u>any</u> position by removing “consecutive” and adding “within the last five years” before being able to determine if a member is unable to perform any work for compensation or gain.	Assigned: Hse GR, Hse Rules Hse GR DPA (9-0-0-3-0) and Rules Second Read 1/15/04 From gov-ret with amend 3069 DPA- COW 2/12/04 2.16 /DP 56-0; Status: 2/17 Senate first read	As Introduced: None expected.	As Introduced: Industry professionals estimate an annual cost savings to the LTD fund of up to \$16 million. Actuarial costs and impact on LTD contribution rates are pending.

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
HB 2078 - ASRS; Asset Management; Limitations Sponsor: Huppenthal As Introduced: Change to allow ASRS to hire a fund manager who has 3 years experience managing institutional funds and eliminate the requirement for having at least 10% of the ASRS assets under management currently. (38-718).	Assigned: <i>Hse GR, Hse Rules</i> Passed <i>Hse. GR DP (9-2-0-1-0)</i> Awaiting Rules Status: Second Read 1/15/04 2/26 <i>Hse. Rules ok Hse. COW approved with amend #3398.</i>	As Introduced: None	As Introduced: None
HB 2079 - ASRS; Normal Cost Definition Sponsor: Huppenthal As Introduced: Technical, redefine "Normal Cost" to the definition for Projected Unit Credit. (38-711) S/E NOW: Family builders; audits; repeals SHORT TITLE CHANGE	Assigned: <i>Hse GR, Hse Rules</i> Status: <i>Passed Hse. GR (6-5-0-1-0) DPA/SE Rules (11-0-0-1-0)</i> Second Read 1/15/04 COW 2/5 DP 2/9 passed Hse Status: 57-1 <i>Senate first read 2/10/04</i>	As Introduced: None	As Introduced: None
HB 2174 - Electronic Medical Claims Submission System Sponsor: Biggs, Quelland Same as SB1270 As Introduced: An electronic medical claims submission system shall be implemented by the Dept of Administration, the Arizona State Retirement System, and AHCCCS by Jan 1, 2005. The system shall be used by these agencies as the sole method of receiving medical claims for payment. Emergency clause.	Assigned: <i>Hse. Health, Approps, Rules</i> Status: Second read on 1/20/04	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
HB 2185 - State Sick Leave Pay; Direct Transfer Sponsor: Gray, L. As Introduced: Upon retirement, a state or county officer or employee may elect to have accumulated sick leave payouts transferred directly to an eligible retirement plan.	Assigned: <i>Hse. GR, Educ</i> Status: 1/27 – GR DP (12-0-0-0-0) 1/21 - <i>Hse Educ, DP (11-0-0-1-0)</i> 2/4 – Rules DP (12-0-0-0-0) Status: Through Caucus 2/12/04 Retained in COW 2/26/04 DPA COW	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.
HB 2361 - State Agencies; Outside Counsel, Procurement First sponsor: Biggs, Others: Quelland As Introduced: State agencies authorized to retain outside counsel to perform legal services must comply with provisions of the state procurement code and must submit copies of the RFP and name of the proposed outside counsel to JLBC. At conclusion of the proceeding, outside counsel must submit a detailed statement of hours worked, expenses, etc. If the proceeding is a contingent fee case, the state agency is prohibited from paying an hourly rate in excess of \$500.	Assigned: 2/10 - <u>House gov-ret held.</u> 1/28 - <u>referred to House gov-ret, appro.</u> Second Read 1/29/04 Status: 2/10 Hse. Gov-ret held.	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.
HB 2382 - Social Security Numbers; Government Use Sponsor: Gray, C. As Introduced: Restrictions on the use of a person's social security number are waived for the Dept of Revenue and for all law enforcement agencies only (currently, the waiver extends to all agencies of the state as well as municipalities, counties and other political subdivisions).	Assigned: 2/3 – DP GR(9-0-0-3-0). Rules 2/11/04 (11-0-0-1-0) C & P Status: 2/16 Stricken from Hse. Consent calendar by Gray. 2/26 DPA COW	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
HB 2599 - Retirement; ASRS; Retiree Health Insurance First sponsor: Konopnicki. Others: Alvarez, Burns, Chase, Wagner, Arzberger, Brown. Same As SB 1176 As Introduced: Group health insurance offered by the state retirement plan to its retired members shall have comparable premiums, deductibles and co-payments for all participants regardless of where they live in the state.	Assigned: 2/11 Hse gov-ret Approp Status: Second Read 2/12/04	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Impact on Health Insurance Contracts not yet determined.
HB 2600 - Retiree Health Insurance Study First sponsor: Konopnicki. Others: Alvarez, Burns, Chase, Wagner, Arzberger, Brown. Same As SB 1192 As Introduced: Legislative Council shall contract with a private entity to perform a study on various alternatives to provide health care coverage to retirees, including the feasibility of a single health insurance program for retirees of all state retirement plans or of allowing retirees to remain in the same health care plan as their previous employers; others. Report due Dec 1, 2004. The ASRS, PSRS, CORP, and EORP on a prorated basis will reimburse Legislative Council for the cost of the study based on each system's active membership as of June 30, 2004.	Assigned: 2/16 Hse DP gov-ret (10-0-0-2-0) Approps First Read 2/11/04 Second Read 2/12/04 Status: 2/24/04 Hse Approps held	As Introduced: Estimated ASRS cost for study at \$100,000 minimum. No impact on contribution rates.	As Introduced: Not yet available.
HB 2650 - Investment Protection Committee Sponsor: Rosati As Introduced: An Investment Protection Committee is established to share investment strategies, forecasting, credit analysis forecasts and contingency planning among various state entities that invest public funds. An annual report is due on Dec 31 to the Speaker and President on contingency planning for emergencies, investment losses, and any legislative recommendations. Committee members include the state treasurer, manager of the state comp fund, administrator of the PSPRS, and the director of the ASRS (or their designees).	Assigned: 2/12 gov-ret, PIC First Read 2/11/04 Status: 2/24 DP Hse gov-ret	As Introduced: Not yet available	As Introduced: Not yet available

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
HB 2666 - Retirement; Elected Officials & Judges Sponsor: Rep. <u>Pearce</u> . Others: Rep. <u>Gullett</u> , <u>Quelland</u> . As Introduced: The following are required to become members of the State Retirement System if they are elected or appointed after Jan. 1, 2005: state and county elected officials, justices and judges of appellate courts and the superior court, full-time superior court commissioners. Provisions for local government joinder agreements with the Elected Officials Retirement Plan and for transfer of charter city retirement credits to EORP are repealed.	Assigned: 2/16 - referred to House gov-ret, approp & rules Status: Second read 2/17	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.
SB 1176 - Retirement; ASRS; Retiree Health Insurance First sponsor: Arzberger. Others: Burns, Carruthers, Konopnicki, Wagner, Cannell. Same As HB 2599 As Introduced: Premiums and coverage for health insurance offered by ASRS for its retirees must be comparable for all eligible persons in the state.	Assigned: 1/27 referred to Fin, Approp & Rules Status: 2/23 Senate fin- held	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Impact on Health Insurance contracts not yet determined.
SB 1192 – Retiree Health Insurance Study Sponsor: Arzberger Same As HB 2600 As Introduced: JLBC will contract with a private entity to conduct a study and make recommendations on various suggestions to provide a single health insurance plan for retirees in all four state retirement systems. The ASRS, PSRS, CORP, and EORP on a prorated basis will reimburse Legislative Council for the cost of the study based on each system's active membership as of June 30, 2004.	Assigned: 2/23 Senate fin, approp. Rules Status: 2/24 DP Senate Fin	As Introduced: Estimated ASRS cost for study at \$100,000. No impact on contribution rates.	As Introduced: Not yet available.

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
SB 1270 - Medical Claim Electronic Submission Sponsor: Sen. <u>Verschoor</u> . Others: Rep. <u>Quelland</u> , Sen. <u>Burns</u> , <u>Harper</u> , <u>Jarrett</u> , <u>Martin</u> , <u>Tibshraeny</u> , <u>Weiers</u> . Same as HB 2174 As Introduced: By Jan. 1, 2005, the dept of administration, the retirement system and AHCCCS must establish a system for electronic submission of medical claims to be used as the sole means of receiving claims for payment. Requirements include a demonstrated ability to broadcast an asynchronous eligibility inquiry to all North American payers in one second or less per patient.	Assigned: 2/2 - referred to Status: <u>Senate gov, approp.</u>	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.
SB 1290 - Retirement; State; Retiree Health Insurance Sponsor: Martin As Introduced: Retired members of PSPRS, EORP, and CORP may purchase health insurance from anyone and by written evidence of health care coverage to the fund manager before the fund begins may receive payment of the health care insurance subsidy.	Assigned: 2/23 Senate fin & rules Status: <u>2/24 DP</u> <u>Senate Fin(6-1-2-0)</u>	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.
SB 1343 – State Investment; Terrorist Ties Sponsor: <u>Verschoor</u> As Introduced: Everyone who manages money on behalf of the state government, including the retirement systems, must annually report a list of companies in which they have investments that according to the U.S. State Department have ties to federally designated terrorist sponsor countries, with details of the companies' connections to these countries and what if anything they are doing to insure that the technology they sell is not used for a non-civilian purpose. The reports also must include proposals for changing investment portfolios to exclude such companies.	Assigned: 2/4 referred to <u>Senate fin</u> Status:	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
SB1348 - Retirement; ASRS; Military Reserve Service Sponsor: Hellon As Introduced: Provision that an active member of the Arizona State Retirement System may purchase credited service for time spent on active military duty is expanded to include military reserve duty if the member submits a military service record that specifies the duration of reserve service.	Assigned: 2/4 – <i>Fin & rules</i> Status: 2/23 <u>Senate fin held</u>	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.
SB 1377 - Retirement Incentive Costs; ASRS Sponsor: Martin Same As HB 2052 As Introduced: If a retirement incentive program results in an actuarial unfunded liability to the Arizona State Retirement System, the employer who offers it must pay ASRS the amount of the liability as determined by ASRS. Retirement incentive program is defined as one that gives an increase of 30% or more in pay in any of the last 3 years before retirement if the increase is used to calculate the retirement benefit and other conditions apply.	Assigned: 2/5 – Status: <u>Senate fin & rules</u>	As Introduced: \$266,345 one-time implementation cost that includes programming and other set up costs. No impact on contribution rate.	As introduced: The bill will result in contribution rate savings of 0.11% for all participating employers and 0.11% for all employees. Employers and employees will each see a total annual contribution savings of \$7,575,000. As one of the employers, the state general fund will save \$1.9 million in contributions annually. A study of retirement incentive programs implemented by ASRS employers in recent years has revealed those programs have had a total cost to the fund of \$45.4million.
SB 1378 - Retirement; ASRS Service Purchase Sponsor: Martin Same As HB2029 As Introduced: The qualify to purchase public-service, leave-of-absence or military-service credits for use toward retirement benefits under the Arizona State Retirement System, an individual must have earned at least five years of credited service. Provision is made for use of a rollover contribution for accrued vacation, sick leave or overtime pay.	Assigned: 2/5 second read Status: <u>Senate fin & rules</u>	As Introduced: \$330,000 one-time implementation cost that includes programming and other set up costs. No impact on the contribution rate	As introduced: The bill will result in a reduction in contribution rates of 0.17% for all participating employers and 0.17% for all employees. Employees and Employers will each see a total annual contribution savings of \$12.4 million dollars. As one of the employers, the state general fund will save \$3.2 million in contributions annually.

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
SB 1379 - Retirement; ASRS; Long Term Disability Sponsor: Martin Same As HB 2077 As Introduced: The list of reasons for which payments under the long-term disability program of the Arizona State Retirement System will stop is expanded to include a member's refusal to participate in a work rehab program and a member's conviction of a crime with jail time of more than 30 days. A member can be considered totally disabled if he received benefits for any 24 months in a five-year period (prev 24 consecutive months, no period) and is unable to perform work for pay that is equal to the benefits.	Assigned: <i>2/5-second read</i> Status: <i>Senate fin & rules.</i>	As Introduced: None expected.	As Introduced: Industry professionals estimate an annual cost savings to the LTD fund of up to \$16 million. Actuarial costs and impact on LTD contribution rates are pending.

LEGEND

AMEND C&P	Constitutional and Proper as Amended by the House Rules Committee	HB	House Bill
APPROP	Appropriations Committee	HCR	House Concurrent Resolution
ASRS	Arizona State Retirement System	HHR	House Hearing Room
C&P	Constitutional and Proper	Hse.	House of Representatives
CORP	Corrections Officer Retirement Plan	JUD	Judiciary Committee
COW	Committee of the Whole	LTD	Long Term Disability
DP	Do Pass	PFC	Proper for Consideration
DPA	Do Pass as Amended	PFCA	Proper for Consideration as Amended by the Senate Rules Committee
EORP	Elected Officials' Retirement Plan	PSPRS	Public Safety Personnel Retirement System
FII	Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee	SB	Senate Bill
FIN	Finance Committee	S/E	Strike Everything Amendment
GF	General Fund	Sen.	Senate
GOV	Government Committee	SHR	Senate Hearing Room
GR	Government and Retirement Committee	WM	Ways and Means Committee

**The weekly Legislative report is available on-line at the ASRS Web site:
www.asrs.state.az.us**

If you have questions relating to legislation, please contact ASRS Government Relations Officer
Denisse Gee at (602) 240-2027 or via email at DenisseG@asrs.state.az.us.